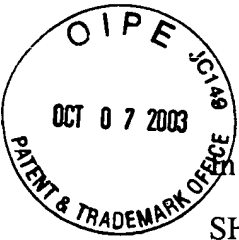


PATENT APPLICATION



RECEIVED  
OCT 17 2003  
Technology Center 2600

Examiner: H.N. Nguyen

TC/Art Unit: 2662

October 6, 2003

October 6, 2003

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the documents, as well as a copy of a communication from the Chinese Patent Office citing the documents in a counterpart Chinese patent application, are enclosed.

## An explanation of relevance for International Patent Publication

WO97/38513 is given in the English abstract on the front page thereof. Also, please note that U.S. Patent No. 6,456,6531 is in the same patent family as WO97/38513. A copy of this U.S. patent is not enclosed but will be gladly provided upon request.

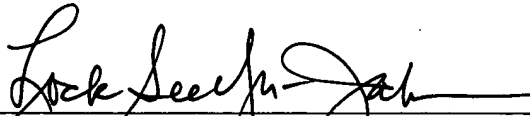
Each item of information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449 form be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Finally, enclosed is a check for the fee of \$180.00 due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(2).

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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